

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending herein. Claims 5-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In particular, the Examiner suggested adding the article "the" before "synovial cells".

Claim 1 has been appropriately amended and is believed to be in full compliance with §112. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

2. Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Stuber et al. (U.S. Patent 5,478,810), and Claims 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and over Stuber et al. (U.S. Patent 5,478,810).

As noted above, Claims 5-9 have been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claims 5-9 are moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Stuber et al., and Claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stuber et al., be withdrawn.

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3. With respect to the telephone interview on August 23, 2004, the Applicant regrets any misunderstanding regarding allowance of Claims 7-9. In this regard, it is noted herewith that the Amendment was filed on the same day as the date of interview i.e., August 23, 2004, and the Interview Summary dated August 23, 2004, was not received by the undersigned from the PTO, a copy of which was obtained recently directly from the PTO website.

CONCLUSION

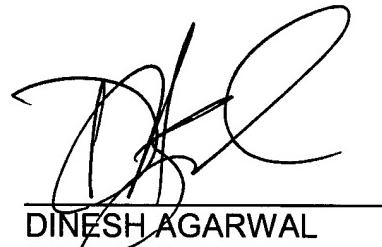
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-4 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fee is due for this submission. However, should that determination be incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 01-0433, and notify the undersigned in due course.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss further this matter, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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